Sati Puja in the country

2323. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN; Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Sati Punja is still permitter in certain temples in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government pro-pose to take for the strict enforcement of present law in order to ban the Sati Punja?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE) DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Information is being collected from the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 has been brought into force with effect from the 3rd January, 1988 to prevent the ommission of Sati and its glorification and for matters connected thereto. However, the responsibility of implementation of the Act rests with the State Governments/Union Ter-ritory Administrations.

Delay hi the Aavailability of DTC time Table

2324. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARA-YANRAO DESHMUKH; Will the Minis-eter of SURFACE TRANSPORT be please to state:

(a) whether despite repeated assertions for the last one year that the DTC time table would be available to the public, no time-table has been made available to the police; and

(b) if so what are tho reasons for de lay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) DTC does not publish Time Table sepa-ractely, but publishes a Route Guide from time to time. In October 1988, it has brought out a new Route Guide. Since timings of the first and Jast trips were not mentioned, therein, D.T.C, have been advised to undertake revision of tha Route Guide so as to include timings of the first and the last trips of the buses.

Presence of foreign powers in the Indian Ocean

2325. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN; Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that threat to India from the presence of foreign po wers in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea cotinues, even after the ceasefire affected between Iran and Iraq;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to meet the situation??

THE MINISTER EXTTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c) The number of foreign naval vessels in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea has been risig in recent years. A large number of such vessels continue to be present in the Indian Ocean though their number has been varying from time to time. There were approximately 145 foreign navel ships in the Indian Ocean, including the Gulf, in October 1988. Government are seized of the situation and all efforts are made to safeguard the country's security.